

# Bryah holds three-of-a-kind

A lot can happen in three years, as Bryah Resources Ltd managing director Neil Marston has experienced since listing the company in October 2017.

Bryah was floated on the back of prospective gold-copper tenements about 150km north of Meekatharra. However, within a week of trading on the ASX, its focus pivoted towards manganese after Marston spotted a small mining operation on a neighbouring licence from the top of Horseshoe Range where he was attempting to make a phone call.

A lucrative JV with Bootu Creek mine operator OM Holdings Ltd followed almost 18 months after that strategic shift in direction and now, as the third anniversary of Bryah's IPO rapidly approaches, Marston appears to have a third mineral opportunity in the Bryah Basin to consider.

In late August the company reported several promising results from drilling at the Mount Labouchere prospect which were confirmed to be highly anomalous in nickel-copper-cobalt.

Best intercepts from the RC drilling included 10m @ 0.13% nickel, 0.21% copper and 0.17% cobalt, including 4m @ 0.22% nickel, 0.38% copper and 0.28% cobalt.

Marston said the prospect was originally drilled back in May for its manganese potential as part of the \$7.3 million JV with OM, but the base metals results were too compelling to be ignored.

Bryah's JV with OM across a 660sq km ground package only applies to manganese opportunities.

"The presence of the low-grade manganese with the nickel-copper-cobalt suggests the mineralisation may have been deposited from hydrothermal fluid flows, so we will need to test this theory

with our future exploration," Marston said.

"To explain the significance of that, we need to understand that our Mount Labouchere prospect is close to a major geological boundary. Such basin margins were good locations for ancient hydrothermal fluid flows to bring mineral-rich water towards the surface where the minerals precipitate out and accumulate over time. It is possible the manganese, which is a very mobile metal, has accumulated on the surface here and scavenged the nickel, copper and cobalt up with it, as it is known to do.

"The question for us to answer is where has the nickel-copper-cobalt come from? Perhaps there is a richer source present at depth beneath the manganese or horizontally nearby. That's why we have started with a soil sampling programme of the area before we get the drill rig back on the ground."

For Marston, there is no one opportunity standing out above all others in Bryah's burgeoning portfolio, with each po-

tential mineral stream carrying its own array of benefits. And in a market which is favouring early-stage exploration, he is prepared to throw whatever he can at a prospect showing signs of something much bigger at play.

"From a small explorer's point of view, there's appetite in the financial markets to fund greenfields exploration," he said. "Chalice Gold Mines [Ltd's] Julimar project is a fantastic result for the industry because it's this whole new mineral system right under everyone's nose. It shows that if you put the right technical team together – and we think we've got a good technical team within our group – you'll get results."

Bryah hopes to roll out another drilling

campaign on the manganese front before the end of the year. It comes after the most recent programme at the Brumby Creek prospect returned a series of high-grade hits such as 30m @ 33.6% manganese from 9m (including 16m @ 38% from 21m) and 25m @ 29% manganese from 4m (including 5m @ 36.2% from 23m).

The upcoming programme is likely to follow-up on pending results from the Cheval and Black Beauty targets.

Marston said a resource estimate for the manganese was something on Bryah's agenda for the back half of 2021, potentially solving the depleting ore problem at OM's Bootu Creek operations.

"One of the challenges that analysts have had in looking at what we're doing is we haven't actually put out any mineral resource estimates as yet, so they really can't do a proper valuation," he said.

"It was a conscious agreement with OM that we wouldn't try and put out JORC resources from day one. The plan was to go and drill-test as many target areas as we could and then towards the end of the programme we'll go back and infill those areas. So, next year you'll start to see a whole lot more of a resource drill-out and estimation work coming out, which will then flow through to economic assessments, mining lease applications and trying to fast-track into production."

Marston is by no means closing the door on a potential gold-copper discovery either. Bryah's recent drilling at the Windalah project returned composite samples of 6m @ 1.56 g/t gold from 51m (including 3m @ 2.71 g/t from 51m) and 14m @ 1.02 g/t gold from 178m (including 2m @ 2.37 g/t from 184m). Copper mineralisation of up to 878 ppm was also intersected in two holes.

Bryah has already defined an inferred resource of 600,00t @ 2.2 g/t gold for 42,500oz at Tumblegum South, part of the company's Gabanintha project, about 40km south of Meekatharra.

"We're looking at monetarising that through some sort of ore sale agreement or something like that," Marston said. "We've got a mining lease application happening and we're advancing it as quickly as we can because at the current gold price, even a 40,000oz deposit can make some really good money."

– Michael Washbourne



Bryah has been busy with the drill bit since listing in late 2017